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EAI50A

We are trying to obtain the release of an Argentinian prisoner, Sr. Antonio Miguel Pitura Rozapanera.

Sr. Pitura was detained in October 1975. He was 24 years old at the time, a student of electrical engineering. Initially he was detained because he was walking late at night, had a mustache and was wearing a jacket the police said was a style popular among subversives. Later his home was searched and three copies of the same issue of an illegal publication were found. (Having one copy would have been legal; it is only the possession of multiple copies that is prohibited.) These two periodicals were the basis of the charge against him.

He received a two year sentence. He has completed this sentence but remains in prison at the disposal of the Executive Power, a form of preventive detention. He is held at La Plata prison in Buenos Aires province. Under Argentine law, persons held at the disposal of the Executive Power can ask for the right of option, i.e. to go into exile. Sr. Pitura has had four petitions for option denied.

Recommended Action: Please write courteously worded airmail letters appealing to the Argentine authorities to release Antonio Miguel Pitura Rozapanera on the grounds that he has already served the sentence that was imposed on him by the courts. Do not mention Amnesty International, as AI is regarded with disfavor by the Argentine government. A postage meter setting rather than a stamp should be used on all mail to Argentina. Try to write one letter each month to each of the following officials:

*Excelentísimo Señor Presidente de la República Argentina Teniente General Roberto Viola Casa Rosada Balcarce 50 Buenos Aires Argentina	Señor Comandante en Jefe de la Fuerza Aérea Brigadier General Omar Graffigna Edificio Condor Maipú 2050 1104 Buenos Aires Argentina
Señor Comandante en Jefe del Ejército Teniente General Leopoldo F. Galtieri Azopardo 250 1328 Buenos Aires Argentina	Señor Ministro del Interior * General de División Tomás Horacio Liendo Ministerio del Interior Casa de Gobierno Balcarce 50 Buenos Aires Argentina
Señor Comandante en Jefe de la Armada Almirante Jorge Isaac Anaya Edificio Libertador Comodoro Py y Corbeta Uruguay 1104 Buenos Aires Argentina	Señor Ministro de Justicia Doctor Amadeo Frúgoli Ministerio de Justicia Gral. Gelly y Obes 2289 Buenos Aires Argentina

Any replies received should be forwarded to: AI Group 61 c/o Debra Mair 344 S. Division Apt. 213, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason